

The Green Thumb

A Newsletter of Extension Horticultural Activities and Events
For York County Extension Volunteers

Vol. 4, Issue 3
March 1, 2003

Calendar Of Events

Apr 3, 9:30am	Learning Garden Committee meeting, Extension office
Apr 8, 9:30am	Programming Meeting, St. Luke's United Methodist Church
Apr 10, 7-9pm	TAP Seminar – <i>Soils & Water</i> , Norfolk Botanical Garden - Holly Room; Reg. req.
Apr 15	DEADLINE for Green Thumb
Apr 18, 12-1pm	Hear Say Gardening, FM 89.5
Apr 26, 8:15-3pm	Gardening 2003, CNU Science Building, www.cnu.edu , preregistration required
May 3, 9-12	Learning Garden Plant Sale
May 29, 6:30pm	4-H Chrysanthemum Program Meeting, York County Extension Office
May 31, 9am-12pm	TAP Field Day, Norfolk Botanical Garden - Rose Garden Hall; Reg. required
June 5-8	MG College 2003, Blacksburg, VA
June 12, 7-9pm	TAP Seminar – <i>Tree Nutrition & Fertilization</i> ; NBG - Holly Room; reg. req.
June 18-21	International MG Conference, www.mastergardener.osu.edu/imgc2003/
June 30–July 4	4-H Summer Residential Camp
July 10, 7-9pm	TAP Seminar, <i>Tree Pruning</i> , NBG, Holly Room; reg. req.
Aug 14, 7-9pm	TAP Seminar, <i>Protecting Trees</i> , NBG - Holly Room;
Sep 11, 7-9 pm	TAP Seminar, <i>Diagnosing Tree Problems</i> , NBG – Holly Room; reg. req.
Oct 9, 7-9pm	TAP Seminar, <i>Tree Health Care</i> , NBG – Holly Room; reg. req.
Nov 13, 7-9pm	TAP Seminar, <i>Tree Hazards</i> , NBG – Holly Room; reg. req.

Thursdays Work/Learn Day in the Learning Garden 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

For additions/corrections to the Calendar of Events contact Jody at 890-4940 or Wanda Turner at 898-0653, e-mail: wgt00@cox.net . The deadline for the Green Thumb is **ALWAYS** the 15th of the month, no exception.

E-mail changes: If you have changes to any of the methods of communication to you please notify Jody. Jody will pass the word. We want to keep in contact with you. These changes will be posted to the weekly e-mails and will be in the Green Thumb.

Master Gardener Mission Statement: *Our mission, as trained volunteers in partnership with the York County, Virginia Cooperative Extension Agent, is to provide horticultural educational opportunities to the public through research-based horticultural programs and activities to enhance our environment, lives and community.*

www.ext.vt.edu

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Notes from Jim

Hear Say

On March 21, we will be broadcasting our gardening show, Hear Say on WHRO. Be sure to listen in and get your questions in from 12 noon until 1 PM. I will look forward to responding to you. The station is FM89.5.

Using Resources in the Office

The monthly class on responding to phone calls will be held Wednesday March 5, from 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon. Limit 5 per session, pre-register at 890-4940. This very popular program is designed to acquaint master gardeners with the resources that are in the Extension Office; to do research, study information, prepare for exhibits, and respond to telephone questions. During this morning session you will become acquainted with the location of information and files, become familiar with phone procedures, learn how to use specific CD programs on the computer and also other information that is in the Extension Office. It is a lot of information but once you have been exposed to it, you will feel capable and comfortable when you spend time in the office.

Winter Lecture Series

The Mathews Master Gardeners invites the public to the last program of their free Winter Lecture Series. "Drought Tolerant Plants", presented by Jim Orband, is the subject scheduled for March 26th from 7-8pm. It will be held at the Kingston Parish House in Mathews. For more information, call Mathews County Extension Office at (804) 725-7196. Admission is free, but a donation of a non-perishable food item for the food pantry would be appreciated.

General Members Meeting

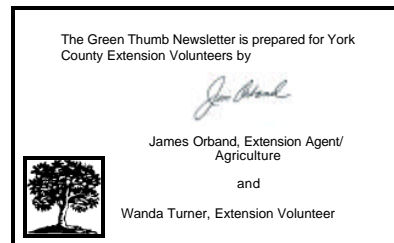
Mark your calendars and plan to be there. The York County Master Gardeners General Members Meeting is to be held Tuesday, March 25 at 9:30am at St. Luke's United Methodist Church. Don't forget, wear your name badge and bring an item for the food closet. They are in need of most anything at this time.

Calling All Weed-Haters

Agnes Evans, fearless Lawn Team Coordinator, is looking for a few scruffy lawns. She hopes to find some possibilities for sites throughout the county for the Lawn Clinics which will be scheduled for July - August - September clinic series. Soooooo, if you would like to host a lawn clinic your very own self, or have a neighbor or friend in the county who could use some guidance and encouragement from some members of Lawn Team, please give Agnes a call at 867-8072.

4-H Lawn Mowing Program

"MONDAYS IN MARCH" will remind interested students that the class will be held March 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, and 31st from 6:30 to 8:00 PM. Classes will be held in room 19 of St. Luke's Church on Ella Taylor Road in Yorktown. Last year's class filled quickly. Call the York County Extension Office (890-4940) to register. Students do not need to be York County residents to attend. If you have any questions contact Teri at tcheslak@cox.net.



Spring Home Gardener

Due to an unusually low number of registrations, and the enormous amount of resources it takes to put on the program, it will be cancelled for the Spring session. We will look forward to better registration in the Fall.

Master Gardener Hours

Do you sometimes think of keeping track of your hours as “continuing education?” A new challenge every time you attempt one of those time sheets? We hope to make the entire process of your record keeping as simple as possible and are always open to suggestions to meet that goal. The new time sheet has the columns shifted in hopes of making it more user friendly for you.

A couple of things to keep in mind:

--Class of 2002—you cannot count training (or continuing education) hours until you have met your 50 hour requirement. So turn all of your hours in as service hours until you have reached your 50 hours. You have one year to meet the 50 hour requirement.

#1—Community Outreach—Use this when you are **face to face** with the public. If you are doing the preparation for the face to face (i.e. a clinic) those hours would fall under #3, Administrative Support. The exception to the face to face is the Learning Garden, which falls under this category.

#2--Clarification of Continuing Education: You are required to fulfill 8 hours of re-certification training annually to maintain active status. You are encouraged to choose re-certification opportunities that build skills utilized when assisting the community in their volunteer jobs as well as being of personal interest. The information should be new and stimulating to you, rather than repetitive information (hence, sitting in on initial MG training classes as a “refresher” is not appropriate re-certification training unless significantly different than the original training.

#3--Administration Support (the area where most of your hours will fall.) If you’re not looking at or speaking to a customer, then your hours probably fall in this category.

Now, that being said; I will remind you that it is YOUR decision where you place your hours. I simply input into the computer what you give me. You will not be questioned about your hours—this is the honor system. With the guidelines given . . .and they are only guidelines . . .you decide for yourself in which category your hours belong.

Lastly, I cannot state strongly enough how important it is for you to **KEEP A COPY** of the time sheets you turn in. The more I work with this computer system, the more I recognize the importance of backup copies. I was inputting hours the other day and everything I input went in double. So of course the total hours didn’t match what had been given to me!! At any time, email me your total hours (not just yearly total) and I’ll check what the computer says. If we do not agree on hours, I’ll print a copy of your record and you can check where the discrepancy is. Several people recently have noted a difference between “their” total hours and “my” total hours. I encourage you to check your hours against the computer. Hopefully this has been helpful information for you. You can get me time sheets via email (Hanson5t@cox.net), the office, programming meetings, or when you bump in to me. Terry Hanson

VMGA Report

York County Master Gardeners hosted the bimonthly meeting of the Virginia Master Gardener Association on Saturday, February 8. Thanks to those who helped with set up, preparing food, hosting that day and cleaning up. You all did a marvelous job.

Seven of our MG's are planning to attend Andy Hankins "Organic Garden of Eden: Herbs, Flowers and Fungi" at Virginia State University on March 8.

Because Sarah Lineberger, our state MG coordinator at Virginia Tech, has resigned, Frank Reilly of Prince William County will plan the MG College this year.

Report from the Mid-Atlantic Horticulture Short Course

January 20, 2003 was Day One of the Mid-Atlantic Horticulture Short Course and it began with a wonderful talk by Dr. H. Marc Cathey, President Emeritus of the American Horticultural Society. His topic was "The 21st Century: Heydays for Horticulture", outlining emerging opportunities that will put horticulture as a central force to assist the continued appreciation and need for plants in everyone's lives. Following his talk, I attended the course, "Plant Selection for Water Gardens", given by Randolph Heffner of Aquascapes Unlimited in Pipersville, PA. He gave lots of tips on types of water features, types of water gardens, and types of aquatic plants. The next class I attended was "Basic Horticulture and Landscape Design" by Pat Bridges. One tip he gave was to plant a deciduous shade tree in the SW corner of the site to be landscaped, so that it can provide shade to whatever building will occupy the site. After a lunch break, my final class was "Perennial Selections and Establishment" by Kathy Miller of Lucas Greenhouses in Monroeville, NJ. She discussed many useful items in regards to choosing a good landscape perennial and successful maintenance of perennials, while highlighting some popular perennials. The short course was attended by those who are in the landscape business, master gardeners, and citizens who have a love of horticulture. I learned a great deal from this course and I encourage others to take advantage of it next year. Rene' Kauder

E-Mail Update

Sheila Cox - tptbte@yahoo.com

Virginia Cooperative Extension
York County Office
100 County Drive
PO Box 532
Yorktown VA 23690-0532
(757) 890-4940 / Fax 890-4033
iorband@vt.edu

We're on the Web!

www.yorkcounty.gov/vce

MARCH 2003

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1 9am-3pm Hort. Extravaganza St. Luke's Church
2	3 6:30-8pm Lawn Mowing Class, St. Luke's Rm. 19	4 9:30am MG Training Planning Meeting Yorkminster	5 9:30am-12pm Using Office Resources, pre- registration req.	6	7	8 9am-12pm Home Gardener -- St. Joan of Arc -- VMGA Program Organic Garden of Eden, VSU
9	10 6:30-8pm Lawn Mowing Class, St. Luke's Rm. 19	11 9:30am Programming Mtg. St. Luke's Church Hort. Extravaganza follow-up meeting immed. afterwards	12	13 7-9pm TAP Seminar Norfolk Botanical Garden – Holly Room	14 10am-5pm Walsingham Acad. Flower & Garden Show (see article)	15 9am-12pm Home Gardener Program St. Joan of Arc 10am-5pm → Walsingham
16 12-5pm Walsingham Acad. Flower & Garden Show (see article)	17 6:30-8pm Lawn Mowing Class, St. Luke's Rm. 19	18	19	20	21 12-1pm Hear Say Radio Program WHRO FM89.5	22 9am-12pm Home Gardener Program St. Joan of Arc
23 30	24 6:30-8pm Lawn Mowing Class, St. Luke's Rm. 19 31 6:30-8pm Lawn Mowing Class, St. Luke's Rm. 19	25 9:30am General Members Mtg., St. Luke's fellowship hall	26 7-8pm Matthews Winter Lecture Series Kingston Parish Drought Tolerant Plants	27	28	29 9am-12pm Home Gardener Program St. Joan of Arc

Interesting Upcoming Events...

Walsingham Academy's Flower & Garden Show

Walsingham Academy is holding a Flower & Garden Show March 14-16 on their campus at 1100 Jamestown Road, Williamsburg, Va. The show weekend features exhibits, guest speakers, and vendors of flower and garden products. Admission is \$5 per day or \$10 for the weekend pass. Hours are 10am-5pm on Friday and Saturday and 12-5 on Sunday. For more information go to www.walsingham.org and click on "development" then on "flower and garden show". Or you can call Sherry Curtis at 220-8083

Show Schedule

Friday, March 14, 2003:

- 10:30: Don McKelvey, Garden Historian at the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, **"Brother's of the Spade"**
- 11:30: Jim Orband, Extension Agent, York Co. **"Diagnosing Plant Problems"**
- 12:30: Conrad Meil, ISA Certified Arborist, **"Integrated Pest Management"**
- 1:30: Kathy VanMullekom, Garden Journalist/Daily Press, **"Winter Wakes a Different Garden"**
- 2:30: Dick Mahone, **"Boxwoods and Evergreens in the Landscape"**
- 3:30: Bob Black, Bennett's Creek Nursery, **"Growing Beautiful Camellias in Virginia"**

Saturday, March 15, 2003:

- 10:30: Kathy Duncan, Landscape Designer/Custom Gardens, **"Introduction to Landscape Design"**
- 11:30: Andrew Koenig, ISA Certified Arborist/Bartlett Tree Experts, **"Proper Tree & Shrub Health Care"**
- 12:30: Tentative Speaker
- 1:30: John Green, President Williamsburg Botanical Garden, **"A Botanical Garden in Williamsburg"**
- 2:30: Barbara Schuler, Landscape Designer/Custom Gardens, **"Water Gardening Basics"**
- 3:30: Bob Winters, James City Co. Master Gardener, **"Quality Water, Quality Turf"**

Sunday, March 16, 2003:

- 12:30: Wesley Greene, Garden Historian/Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, **"Evolution of the Governor's Palace"**
- 1:30: Matthew Peterschmidt, Garden & Greenhouse Supervisor/Mount Vernon Estate and Gardens
"George Washington, At Home with His Trees"
- 2:30: Barbara Shuler, Landscape Designer/Custom Gardens, **"Water Gardening Basics"**
- 3:30: Wayne Moyer, James City Co. Master Gardener, **"Honey Bees in the Garden"**

Speakers Located in the Upper School Cafeteria

. “Trees are Priceless”

The 10 session seminar series is to provide information on successful tree establishment and growth. This will be an ongoing series that can be started and completed at any time and will be repeated in February 2004. The sessions take place at Norfolk Botanical Gardens, February through November, on the second Thursday of the month from 7-9pm in the Holly Room. Except for the “Field Day” which will take place on Saturday May 31, from 9-12 am in Rose Garden Hall. For registration call Betty Ann Galway at 757-441-5830, ext. 336. The cost is \$10 per session or \$75 for the entire series. For a complete schedule refer to The Green Thumb, January 2003 issue.

CNU's 6th Annual Gardening Symposium

CNU's 6th annual Gardening Symposium is scheduled for April 26th. The keynote speaker this year is Paul Davis of Riverbend Farms. His topic will be "Extreme Gardens, Extreme Perennials".

Program speakers are:

- a) Dave Bankes – “Local Favorite Gardens Inspire Ideas”
- b) Jim Orband – “Ferns for the Garden - More Than a Woodsy Critter”
- c) Linda Johnson – “Native Plants - The Local Yokals in the Garden”
- d) Barbara Schuler - “Water Gardening - H2O for Show”
- e) Peggy Kroff – “Perennials - Friends don't let Friends Buy Annuals”
- f) Chip Powell – “Garden Lighting - Seeing the Garden for the Trees”

The master gardeners who act as moderators that day will participate in the day's activities, including a box lunch free. Anyone else will pay a nominal fee of \$15 for this great day of not only garden programs, but displays, plant sales, and tours of CNU grounds. Please contact Barb Dunbar if you wish to act as a moderator (eight more are needed) at twotac@aol.com or bdunbar@gwu.edu. If you have questions please call 766-2174.

Barbara Dunbar
The George Washington University
Hampton Roads Center
(757) 269-2230

Maymont's Herbs Galore

Saturday, April 26
9am-5pm, Carriage House Lawn

Find “Just the Right Blend” of herbs, other plants and herbal products at the 19th annual Herbs Galore festival centered around Maymont's celebrated Herb Garden. Enjoy an elegant afternoon tea, a workshop for beginning herb gardeners, cooking demonstrations, garden walks and seminars throughout the day. The Marketplace on the Lawn will feature more than 40 plant and craft vendors from the mid-Atlantic region. Admission is free; fees vary for seminars for which advance registration is required. For information, call 804-358-7166 ext. 310.